

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03227 211342Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W
-----065243 212048Z /14

R 211310Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3227

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SW, CU
SUBJECT: SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS

REF: HAVANA 1985

1. DURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN POLCOUNS AND MFA NORTH AMERICAN
DESK OFFICER ON AUGUST 18, LATTER REFERRED TO "SOURING" OF
SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS WHICH, UNTIL 1976, WERE CONSIDERED
EXCELLENT. SOURCE SAID DETERIORATION BEGAN WITH (A) THE
VICTORY OF THE NON-SOCIALISTS IN THE 1976 ELECTIONS AND THE
INDEFINITE "POSTPONEMENT" OF A CASTRO VISIT TO STOCKHOLM
EXTENDED BY FORMER PM PALME; (B) HEIGHTENED WITH THE RIKSDAG
DECISION TWO YEARS AGO TO PHASE OUT SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO
HAVANA BY 1980 (REFTEL); (C) ACCELERATED OVER INCREASED CUBAN
INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA; AND (D) QUICKENED FURTHER IN APRIL 1977
WHEN FORMER CUBAN AMBASSADOR OSCAR EMILIO ALCALDE VALLS
OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY TO THE FORCED RETURN TO CUBA OF
TWO LATIN AMERICANS IMPLICATED IN TERRORIST PLOT TO KIDNAP
FORMER MINISTER TO IMMIGRATION ANNA GRETA LEIJON.
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2. MFA SOURCE CONTINUED THAT WORSENING OF RELATIONS IS
LIKELY TO BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED DIFFICULTIES FOR
SWEDISH MEDIA AND BUSINESS VISITS TO CUBA. HE
DESCRIBED, ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, CASE LAST
SPRING OF SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEATURE WRITER INGEMAR LINDMARKER
(FORMER PRESS COUNSELOR AT SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON).

LINDMARKER HAD MADE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT TO CUBA BUT AT LAST MOMENT CUBANS REFUSED HIM A VISA. SOURCE SAID HE DOUBTED FACT THAT SVENSKA DAGBLADET IS CONSERVATIVE POLITICALLY OR THAT LINDMARKER IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS PRO-WEST HAD MUCH TO DO WITH CUBAN DECISION. TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, SOURCE MAINTAINED, ANY SWEDISH JOURNALIST WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOMED IN HAVANA. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT, MOST PROBABLY, SDP LEADER OLOF PALME AND OTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PROBABLY WOULD HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE WITH CUBAN VISAS. DESPITE PALME'S RECENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA/ERITREA, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' PARTY TIES WITH HAVANA ARE STILL INTACT.

3. SOURCE NOTED THAT CUBANS HAVE FAILED THUS FAR TO DESIGNATE NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN TO REPLACE ALCALDE VALLS WHO DEPARTED STOCKHOLM LAST MARCH. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH03227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0919
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabhlj.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5710dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HAVANA 1985
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1671952
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, SW, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5710dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014